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SUBJECT: JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS

SEATTLE PASS D.L. MCKERNAN

DEPARTMENT PASS ROBERT SCHONING, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
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SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS,
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE
ENTERED CRITICAL PHASE. USSR IS DEMANDING SWEEPING REDUCTIONS
IN JAPANESE CATCH OF CRABS AND HERRING AND, IN ADDITION, PRO-
POSING LARGE EXPANSION OF AREAS CLOSED TO JAPANESE SALMON
FISHING. JAPAN IS EXPECTED TO STRONGLY RESIST THOSE PROPOSALS.
END SUMMARY.

1. ANNUAL MEETING OF JAPAN-USSR NORTHWEST PACIFIC FISHERIES
COMMISSION, WHICH CONVENED IN MOSCOW MARCH 4, DEVOTED FIRST FEW
WEEKS TO EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON CONDITION OF
FISHERY RESOURCES IN CONVENTION AREA. WITH THESE PRELIMINARIES
OUT OF WAY, NEGOTIATIONS IN LATE MARCH REPORTEDLY TURNED TO
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DETERMINING CATCH QUOTAS AND FISHING REGULATIONS. BEGINNING

MARCH 31, MAJOR JAPANESE DAILIES AND TRADE NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO TALKS. GIST OF THEIR REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. USSR IS DEMANDING AN ALMOST TOTAL CESSATION OF JAPANESE FISHERIES FOR CRAB IN OKHOTSK SEA, A 50-75 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THEIR CRAB FISHERIES EAST OF KAMCHATKA, AND A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THEIR FISHERY FOR HERRING.
- B. SOVIET PROPOSAL ON SALMON IS BASED ON AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN TWO SIDES IN 1972 WHICH CORRESPONDS TO 1974 SALMON CYCLE. IN 1972, AREA ENCLOSED BY LONGITUDES 160E AND 168E AND BY LATITUDES 46N AND 53 DEGREES 50 MINUTES N WAS CLOSED TO FISHING FROM MAY 15 TO JUNE 15. HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN THREE SALMON MOTHERSHIPS WERE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN EASTERN HALF OF THAT AREA (EAST OF 164E) DURING CLOSED PERIOD.
- C. SOVIETS PRESENTLY PROPOSING CLOSED AREA BE EXPANDED BY ADDITIONAL TWO DEGREES TO EAST, TO 170E, AND BY ADDITIONAL TWO DEGREES TO SOUTH, TO 44N, THAT CLOSURE BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE PERIOD MAY 15 TO JUNE 30 IN EASTERN SECTOR AND FROM MAY 15 TO JULY 9 IN WESTERN SECTOR.
- D. IN BERING SEA, USSR PROPOSED ESTABLISHING A NEW CLOSED AREA BOUNDED BY LONGITUDES 175 E AND 180 AND BY LATITUDES 56N AND 62N, EFFECTIVE JULY 1 TO END FISHING SEASON, TO PROTECT CHUM SALMON RESOURCE.
- E. IN SEA OF JAPAN, USSR PROPOSED EXPANDING AREA CLOSED TO SALMON FISHING SOUTH OF 45N OFF SOVIET MARITIME PROVINCE, FROM 137E TO 138E ON EASTERN BORDER AND FROM 133 DEGREES 2 MINUTES E TO 131E ON WESTERN BORDER.

2. JAPANESE PRESS CLAIM SOVIET PROPOSALS NOTABLE TO JAPAN AND PREDICT DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD.

3. JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY HAS CONFIRMED THAT ABOVE NEWS REPORTS ARE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE.
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